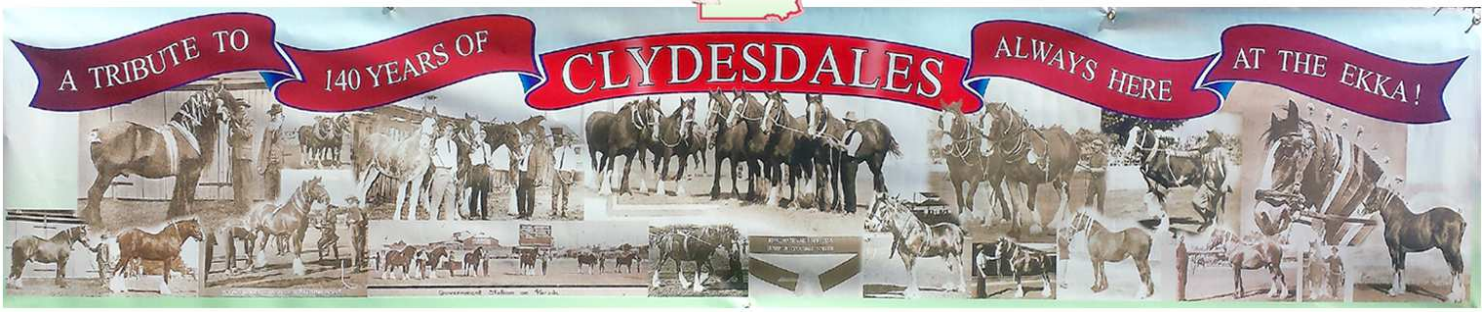
The Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society, Qld Branch inc.

2017 Ekka Special



The 2017 Royal Queensland Show (known to most people as "The Ekka") is over for another year. Hopefully all our exhibitors and their teams of hard-working strappers, handlers and grooms have recovered from lack of sleep, too much Ekka food and intense show preparation and that no-one succumbed to the dreaded Ekka flu.

Numbers of Clydesdales have declined over the years for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the mandatory Hendra vaccination rule. However, the standard is still high and it was pleasing to see a mix of long-time competitors along with newcomers and interstate exhibitors.

13 horses paraded before judge, Mr Terry Goodear, out of a total of 20 entered. For those of you who couldn't make it to this year's show, we have endeavoured to bring a little bit of it to you.

Dress standard: *While it seems the RNA have relaxed their dress code a little we would like to suggest to competitors that blue denim should be avoided and that for gentlemen, a jacket and tie should be worn. Ladies should dress in appropriate clothing and hats (or English style dress caps) are a must for all exhibitors. Boots or closed in shoes (preferably black or tan) should be worn. Joggers are not permitted. Stewards retain the right to exclude anyone from the ring who they feel is not suitably attired.*

The Judge

Mr Terry Goodear

With thanks to Greta Stanfield

Terry is currently head of Heritage & Heartland Marketing for the iconic company, RM Williams. Previously he was National Manager and Head Teamster of the Carlton & United Breweries Horse Teams for 26 years. During this time he and his team put together singles, pairs & unicorns as well as teams of 4, 6 and 8. Together they won more than 30 championships at Royal Shows, including the Concours d'Elegance in the Heavy Horse Section for CUB at the 1988 at the Australian Bicentennial Harness Show.

Terry is a CCHS NSW State accredited Clydesdale judge. He has judged at the West Coast American Heavy Horse Championships in LA in 1999 as well as Heavy Horse harness classes at Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane Royal Shows.

Terry is a founding member of, and great inspiration behind the Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular. He remains as passionate as ever about his own harness horses and is deeply committed to passing on his knowledge and encouragement to the next generation of our country's heavy horse enthusiasts.

Photo insert: Terry Goodear presenting the Best Junior Colt sash at the Royal Qld Show. ***Photo: Katy Driver***

The Exhibitors

Kelly Dudley

It was wonderful to welcome a new exhibitor to the Royal Qld Show this year. Kelly Dudley, daughter of Maria Hughston of Balgowan Clydesdales near Oakey, stepped up after her mother's car accident and entered Maria's mare on her behalf. Kelly thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and I think we will see more of this talented horsewoman at future heavy horse events.

Samarah Park Clydesdale Stud

Shaun & Yvette Maloney made the long drive up from Newcastle again this year bringing with them a 3 year old stallion and yearling colt – full brothers. No strangers to the Clydesdale world, Samarah Park horses are always beautifully presented and an asset to any show ring.

Bradley Wood

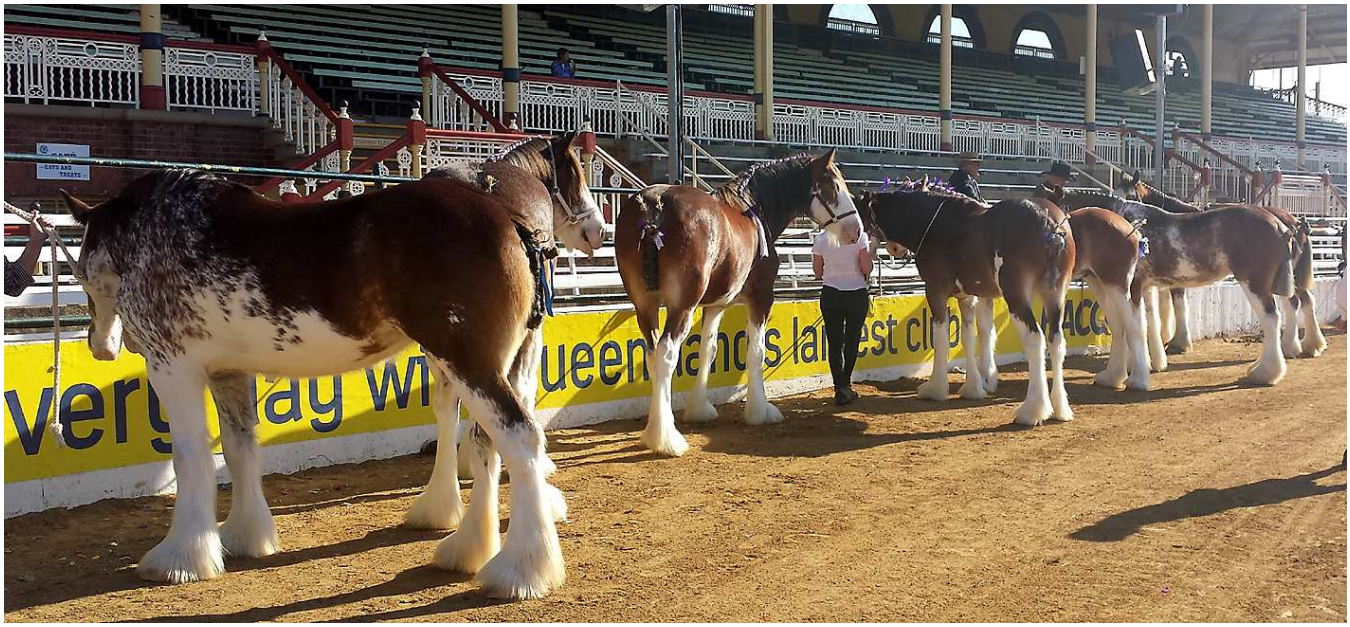
Bradley is a relative newcomer to the Clydesdale show ring – this being his fourth Ekka - but he is making an impact. Earlier his year, Bradley made the long trip to Sydney Royal with his stallion as well as exhibiting at Gatton and the Clydesdale Spectacular. He was joined at the Ekka by Jacob Dunn who took on the role of showing Bradley's mare.

Neil Hall

Neil has been showing at the Ekka for many years now, supported by wife Verna and often helped by his brother Gale. Neil exhibited two of his home-bred, Carseldine horses – a mare and a gelding – and spent his time away from the ring looking after the Clydesdale breed display and participating in the breed demonstrations.

Joan & Ian Stewart-Koster

Joan & Ian from Duneske Clydesdales have been coming to the Ekka for more years than they probably care to remember and have been a Clydesdale exhibitor since 1987. They usually arrive with a team of horses and this year was no different – six in total, including a stallion. Daughter, Hannah, and son, Andrew, very capably helped parade the horses in the ring. The family was easy to pick – they were the ones wearing kilts.



Above: Early morning start - waiting for judging to begin before the gates have been opened to the public.
Photo: Ian Stewart-Koster

The Juniors

Unfortunately only three Junior horses were exhibited this year.

Samarah Park Ambassador

(Tullymore William x Willow Downs Tara)
Exhibitor: Samarah Park Clydesdale Stud
Pictured right with Yvette Maloney
1st: Colt 1 Year & Under

Best Junior Colt

Photo: Katy Driver

Duneske Flash Prints

(Box Valley Banjo x Duneske Flash Princess)
Exhibitor: J & I Stewart-Koster
Pictured left with Ian Stewart-Koster
1st: Colt 2 Years Old
Photo: Katy Driver

Duneske Heatherbelle

(Sarjon Park Lleyton x Duneske Flash Beauty)
Exhibitor: J & I Stewart-Koster
Pictured right with Ian Stewart-Koster
1st: Filly 1 Year & Under

Best Junior Filly

Photo: Katy Driver

The Stallions

Three stallions were exhibited out of five entered across the two classes.

Duncan Valley Raghnall

(Duncan Valley Emanuel x Murroka Rosemary)
Exhibitor: Bradley Wood
Pictured right with Bradley Wood
1st: Stallion 4 Years & Over

Champion Stallion

Photo: Katy Driver

Sarjon Park Lleyton

(Wallamba Clyde x Annaburne Flash Karen)
Exhibitor: J & I Stewart-Koster
Pictured left with Ian Stewart-Koster
2nd: Stallion 4 Years & Over
Photo: Katy Driver

Samarah Park Sovereign

(Tullymore William x Willow Downs Tara)
Exhibitor: Samarah Park Clydesdale Stud
Pictured right with Shaun Maloney
1st: Stallion 3 Years Old

Reserve Champion Stallion

Photo: Katy Driver

The Mares

Only one of the three mare classes, the Dry Mare class, was contested with five horses exhibited out of seven entered.

Duneske Flash Pearl

(Box Valley Banjo x Duneske Flash Princess)
Exhibitor: J & I Stewart-Koster
Pictured right with Hannah Willshire Photo: Katy Driver
1st: Dry Mare 4 Years & Over

Champion Mare

Duneske Flash Beauty

(Box Valley Matthew x Duneske Flash Princess)
Exhibitor: J & I Stewart-Koster
Pictured left with Andrew Stewart-Koster
2nd: Dry Mare 4 Years & Over

Reserve Champion Mare

Photo: Katy Driver

Balgowan Rumour

(Montana Park Legacy x Duneske Double Delight)
Exhibitor: Kelly Dudley
Pictured right with Kelly Dudley Photo: Katy Driver
3rd: Dry Mare 4 Years & Over

Jika Farm Evita

(Hillside Lorton Legend x Jika Farm Ella)
Exhibitor: Bradley Wood
Pictured left with Jacob Dunn Photo: Katy Driver
4th: Dry Mare 4 Years & Over

Carseldine Opal

(Montana Park Legacy x Carseldine Gem)
Exhibitor: Neil Hall
Pictured right with Neil Hall
5th: Dry Mare 4 Years & Over *Photo: Katy Driver*

The Supreme

DUNESKE FLASH PEARL – *J & I Stewart-Koster*

Congratulations to Joan, Ian and Team Duneske. This was the 4th tri-colour sash for Pearl at the Royal Qld Show.

Above: Duneske Flash Pearl with Ian Stewart-Koster, Marian Bangay (the Qld Branch representative) and Terry Goodear ***Photo: Katy Driver***

The Geldings

Only two geldings were entered this year – both in the younger age group. The place getters automatically became the Champion and Reserve.

Duneske Ranger

(Sarjon Park Lleyton x Duneske Flash Pearl)
Exhibitor: J & I Stewart-Koster
Pictured right with Hannah Willshire
1st: Gelding 3 years & under

Champion Gelding *Photo: Katy Driver*

Carseldine Liberty

(Sarjon Park Ramsey x Carseldine Bonnie Nell)
Exhibitor: Neil Hall
Pictured left with Neil Hall *Photo: Katy Driver*
2nd: Gelding 3 years & under

Reserve Champion Gelding

The Group Classes

Group of Three Horses – any age, any sex. Owned but not necessarily bred by the exhibitor.
Two entries but one scratched.
1st: J & I Stewart-Koster with Sarjon Park Lleyton and Duneske mares Flash Pearl & Flash Beauty

Progeny Group – Two horses any age, any sex by the same sire or from the same mare. Not necessarily owned by the same exhibitor.
Three entered but one scratching
1st: Samarah Park Clydesdale Stud with SP Sovereign & SP Ambassador - the full brother progeny of Tullymore William & Willow Downs Tara
2nd: J & I Stewart-Koster with Duneske Flash Pearl & Duneske Flash Beauty – both daughters of Duneske Flash Princess

The Riders

Hannah Willshire and Duneske Flash Beauty

This was a special moment for Hannah to win a well-contested under saddle class that consisted of two Clydesdales and three Shires (The Percherons have their own event). She rode a mare bred by her parents but broken to saddle and trained by Hannah. An achievement she can be very proud of.
1st: Heavy Horse Under Saddle
Photo: Ian Stewart-Koster

Kelley Dudley and Balgowan Rumour

Although started under saddle by fellow Clydesdale breeder, Stan Hughes, Kelly has played a big part in Rumour's education. Bred by Kelly's mother, Maria Hughston, this young mare competed very well to place mid-field out of five competitors. This was Kelly's first time exhibiting Clydesdales at the Ekka and we're sure she'll be back.
3rd: Heavy Horse Under Saddle
Photo: Katy Driver

The Working Horses

Four horses contested the working classes – Carseldine Opal with Neil Hall, Balgowan Rumour with Kelly Dudley and Duneske Ranger & Flash Pearl for the Stewart-Kosters.

Left: Neil Hall driving Carseldine Opal through the Long Reining course

Results:
2nd: Mare or Gelding Driven in Long Reins

Photo: Katy Driver

Right: Kelly Dudley driving Balgowan Rumour through the Slide Obstacle course. This was Kelly's first competition driving Rumour.

Results:
2nd: Slide Drive Obstacle Course
Photo: Katy Driver

Above: The Duneske horses driven by Ian Stewart-Koster. Ranger, on the left, 'caressing' a cone in the long reining, and Pearl on the right in the Slide Drive Obstacle course.
Results: Duneske Ranger: 3rd: Mare or Gelding Driven in Long Reins
Duneske Flash Pearl: 1st: Mare or Gelding Driven in Long Reins 1st: Slide Drive Obstacle Course *Photos: Katy Driver*

The Sponsors

As always, the sponsors play an important role and their generosity is greatly appreciated. The CCHS Qld Branch provides the prize money for the three Champions, the two Best Juniors plus the Supreme Clydesdale. The trophy sponsors include Brian & Fran Eichmann, Duncan Valley Clydesdale Stud, the Teatoff family/Granadeb Park Clydesdales and Mrs Gwen Chittenden.

Pictured right is Murray Goodall presenting the Champion Stallion trophy (donated by Duncan Valley Clydesdales) to Bradley Wood with judge, Terry Goodear on the left.
Photo: Katy Driver

Pictured left is Mrs Gwen Chittenden presenting Hannah Willshire with the Reserve Champion Mare trophy and Mrs Chittenden's grandson on the left. ***Photo: Katy Driver***

For those who don't know of this wonderful lady, Gwen Chittenden is now 90 years old and just has a special love of Clydesdales. She has been a terrific Ekka supporter for many years sponsoring several classes as well as Reserve Champion trophies. This year she was accompanied by her very attentive grandson.

A very big 'Thank You' to all Royal Qld Show sponsors.

The Blessing of the Plough

The "Blessing of the Plough" has its roots in old English tradition, and it was instigated as a part of 'Farm Sunday' activities at Brisbane Royal Show in 1950, continuing until 1956 and then it was dropped from the programme. It was re-introduced in 2000 as part of the Official Opening Ceremony of the show and since then, the honour of being a part of this tradition and providing the plough and the horses has fallen to the Stewart-Koster family. This year, the Blessing of the Plough was performed by the Reverend Phillip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane.

Left: Andrew Stewart-Koster driving Duneske mares Pearl & Beauty into the main arena to take part in the Blessing of the Plough ceremony. Photo: Ian S-K

The Breed Expo

The Horse Breeds Expo was an innovation by the RNA in 1996 so breed societies and the general public could interact and information shared. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Branch to demonstrate both visually – and physically in the breed demonstrations – the many uses of this wonderful horse. It is also an ideal opportunity for a bit of revenue-raising by selling Clydesdale-related merchandise.

This year the display recognised the 140 years of the Ekka and the fact that the Clydesdales have always been a part of it. Thank you to Ian S-K for designing and printing the banner which dominated the display. We also tried our hand at some 'interactive technology' giving people a chance to hold the reins and plough handles behind a video of a pair of Clydies ploughing, experiencing the sounds and view without the hard work – which we also thank Ian for.

A half hour demonstration in the central sand arena is also a requirement of participants and we thank Neil Hall, Ken Bowden and Neil's mare, Opal, for performing this task. Opal also spent her time as the 'Clydesdale on Display' stabled next to our stand. She did a very good job of winning hearts.

There are many people to thank for their time and effort – Neil Hall, our Merchandising Officer oversaw the whole thing for the full five days as well as being there prior to the show to set it up. Marian Bangay, Reg Hodgson, Alexa Waldau, Mary Luetchford, Joan Stewart-Koster & Jean Morice - hopefully I haven't missed anyone – ***Thank You for your efforts manning the display***. Our Ekka display stalwart, Tom McVeigh, was unable to attend this year due to ill-health. We wish you a speedy recovery, Tom.

Above: Alexa & Mary on our breed display. Left: A member of the public enjoying some 'ploughing'
Below: Ken, Neil & Opal during the demonstrations. Below right: Opal winning hearts with Neil ***Photos: Clare Gorwyn & Ian S-K***

The Photographer

Katy Driver was on hand ringside and became our unofficial photographer. She has provided the majority of the photos included in this "Ekka Special" and we thank her for her generosity. She has many more photos of all the events for exhibitors to choose from

Should anyone wish to purchase any of Katy's photos – and her prices are very reasonable – please contact Katy direct by emailing her at katydphotos@gmail.com or if you are friends with her on Facebook, send her a private message.